



Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

**ADJC RECIDIVISM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
January 2010**

The Research and Development (R&D) Division annually updates and recalculates ADJC recidivism rates. Recidivism has been defined as return to custody with ADJC or the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC). The most recent cohort tracked by R&D included juveniles released from ADJC Safe Schools in 2008.

ADJC had a 12 month recidivism rate of 34.1% for juveniles released during 2008. This represents a 10.7% improvement over the previous agency rate. The vast majority of the recidivists were parole violators (PVs), and two-thirds of the PVs were returned for new offenses rather than technical violations. In addition to PVs, the 34.1% recidivism rate includes 6.6% who were sentenced to ADC. This adult corrections recidivism rate is better than the previous year.

ADJC had a 36 month recidivism rate of 48% for juveniles released in 2006. This represents a 7.5% improvement over the previous agency rate. Thirty-six months was chosen as the most appropriate ADJC recidivism follow-up period to use because it allows for a more comprehensive analysis of reoffending patterns. It has been shown that 80% of all ADJC recidivism occurs within 36 months. In addition to PVs, the 48% recidivism rate includes 24% who were sentenced to ADC. This rate is also better than the previous year.

There is no national recidivism rate for juveniles. The comparison of juvenile recidivism rates is often difficult because of the differences in methodologies used, cohorts selected, follow-up time periods, and offenses measured as the recidivating act. “(R)ecidivism is different in all states and no national agreement exists on how it is defined or measured, making any comparison between states meaningless¹.”

For recidivism calculation purposes, each juvenile released from an ADJC Safe School is tracked for a specific period of time e.g., 36 months. They are recorded as recidivists if they return to custody for any reason including a technical violation of a parole condition or a new offense. If a juvenile has two recidivism events within the same time period s/he is placed in the most serious category. If a juvenile has a parole violation and is also sentenced to ADC on a different charge, for example, s/he is coded as returning to custody with ADC.

¹ Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, (January 2006), CJCA Yearbook 2005: A National Perspective of Juvenile Corrections. Also see Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (November 2009), Defining and Measuring Recidivism.